

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-01 SP-02

STR-01 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 IO-10

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-06 SAB-01 SCCT-01 /103 W
----- 041657

R 051849Z FEB 75

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8236

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 315

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, XF, PFOR

SUBJECT: EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 597; (B) ROME 182; (C) STATE 25103

1. SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO AN EC COMMISSION SOURCE, THE ARAB LEAGUE'S RIAD SEEMS INCREASINGLY INTERESTED IN PUSHING THE RUO-ARAB DIALOGUE FORWARD BUT IS STILL FIRM ON PLO REPRESENTATION. VARIOUS SCHEMES ARE UNDER DISCUSSION FOR KEEPING UP THE MOMENTUM IN THE ABSENCE OF AGREEMENT ON HOW TO DEAL WITH THE PLO, BUT NO DECISIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN. WE MADE THE POINTS IN REFTEL C. END SUMMARY.

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2. ON FEBRUARY 5 MISSION OFFICERS WENT OVER RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

IN THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE WITH MEYER, DEPUTY SECRETARY
GENERAL OF THE EC COMMISSION.

3. EC ARAB DIALOGUE: MEYER GAVE US A REPORT ON HIS JANUARY
19 VISIT TO CAIRO WHEN HE ACCOMPANIED IRISH FOREIGN OFFICE
DEPUTY PERMANENT SECRETARY KENNAN ON HIS VISIT WITH ARAB LEAGUE
SECRETARY GENERAL RIAD (REFTEL A). MEYER NOTED THIS WAS THE
FOURTH OR FIFTH TIME THAT HE HAD PARTICIPATED IN MEETINGS
WITH RIAD AND THIS TIME HE FOUND A CHANGED ATMOSPHERE. FOR
THE FIRST TIME HE FELT RIAD DEMONSTRATED A SINCERE INTEREST
IN ECONOMIC COMPONENTS OF THE DIALOGUE AND GENERALLY IN MOVING
BEYOND THE TALKING STAGE.

4. MEYER SAID THAT WHILE RIAD WAS FIRM IN HIS POSITION THAT
THE DIALOGUE COULD NOT BEGIN WITHOUT PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION
(READ PLO) IT WAS MUTUALLY UNDERSTOOD THAT BOTH SIDES WOULD
CONTINUE TO MAKE AN EFFORT TO KEEP UP THAT MOMENTUM IS POSSIBLE
EVEN IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY AGREEMENT ON THE PLO QUESTION.
ONE POSSIBILITY UNDER CONSIDERATION WAS THAT THE TECHNICAL
EXPERTS OF THE NINE COULD PREPARE AND TRANSMIT TO THE ARABS
DRAFT PAPERS DEALING WITH THE SORT OF PROJECTS THAT MIGHT BE
DISCUSSED ONCE THE DIALOGUE GETS UNDERWAY.

5. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION MEYER SAID THAT THE FRENCH
PROPOSAL FOR MEETINGS OF EURO-ARAB EXPERTS NOT DESIGNATED BY
NATIONALITY DID NOT REPEAT NOT COME UP IN THE TALKS WITH RIAD, BUT
THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THIS QUESTION ON A PURELY PERSONAL BASIS
WITH RIAD'S CHEF DE CABINET. NO CONCLUSIONS WERE REACHED BUT
MEYER THOUGHT THE EXCHANGE HAD BEEN HELPFUL IN THAT HE HAD
BEEN ABLE TO DISPEL A MISUNDERSTANDING ON THE ARAB SIDE. HE SAID
THE ARABS HAD UNDERSTOOD THAT THE FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR MEETINGS OF
"DENATIONALIZED EXPERTS" (REFTEL B) ENVISAGED EXPERTS REPRESENTING
THE ARAB LEAGUE AND THE EC RESPECTIVELY. MEYER SAID HE
HAD EXPLAINED THAT THE WHOLE POINT OF SUCH AN APPROACH WAS THAT
THE PARTICIPANTS WOULD NOT BE IDENTIFIED IN ANY WAY WHATSOEVER;
THEY WOULD JUST BE "EXPERTS". IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION,
HOWEVER, MEYER SAID HE THOUGHT IT WOULD ONLY BE NATURAL FOR
THE COMMUNITY ITSELF TO ALSO BE REPRESENTED AT ANY SUCH MEETING
EITHER BY THE COMMISSION OR THE PRESIDENCY OF THE NINE. HE
EMPHASIZED THAT HE WAS AWARE OF NO ARAB DECISION, EVEN IN
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PRINCIPLE, TO ENGAGE IN ANY SUCH MEETING OF EXPERTS.

6. MEYER SAID THAT NEITHER THIS FORMULA NOR ANY OTHER HAD BEEN
AGREED TO BY THE NINE EITHER AND THAT IT WAS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR
THE COMMISSION TO MAKE PROPOSALS ON A POLITICAL QUESTION OF THIS
SORT IN ANY EVENT. HE THOUGHT IT QUITE POSSIBLE THAT THE SUBJECT
OF THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT THE EC FOREIGN
MINISTERS' POLITICAL COOPERATION MEETING IN DUBLIN ON FEBRUARY

13.

7. WE SAID WE HOPED OUR VIEW ON THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE WAS CLEAR. IN PARTICULAR, WE INFORMED MEYER OF THE POINTS IN PARA 3, REFTEL C REGARDING US CONCERNS ABOUT ANY PLO PRESENCE IN THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE. MEYER'S PERSONAL REACTION, WHILE UNDERSTANDING OUR CONCERNS, WAS TO POINT OUT THAT IF YOU REFUSED TO TALK TO THE ARABS IN ALL FORA UNLESS ALL ARAB REPRESENTATIVES WERE CERTIFIED NON-PALESTINIANS, YOU WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO TALK TO THE ARABS AT ALL. WE NOTED THAT SINCE THE ARABS HAD CREATED AN ISSUE OF PLO PARTICIPATION IN THE DIALOGUE, THEY COULD BE EXPECTED TO EXPLOIT THE PLO PRESENCE FOR POLITICAL ENDS NO MATTER HOW WELL THEY WERE CAMOUFLAGED. GREENWALD

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